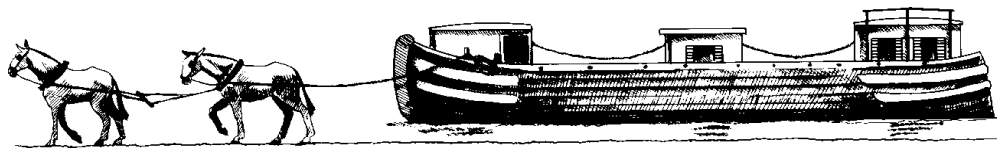


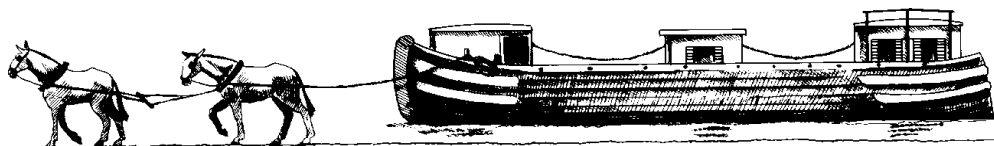
C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM



For Ages 6-8



Hi, kids! Welcome to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. We know that's a mouthful, so just call it the C&O Canal for short.

We are glad you want to become a Junior Ranger. Junior Rangers are special people. They want to protect plants, wildlife (like turtles and birds) and keep our water clean. Junior Rangers also want to protect historic features so those who come after us can also enjoy them.

To become a Junior Ranger, you must complete any 4 of the activities in this booklet. You will need an adult to help you. You can also ask a park ranger or a volunteer for help.

After you complete your activities, bring the booklet to any visitor center. If you have completed your activities, you will receive a Junior Park Ranger badge and a certificate.



HAVE FUN!



This booklet was printed using March for Parks donations.



ACTIVITY #1



EXPLORE A VISITOR CENTER

Today people like to walk or ride their bikes on the towpath beside the canal. But until about 80 years ago, the canal was filled with water and canal boats would take goods to different places using the canal. Mules would be tied to the boats and would walk on the towpath to pull the boats. Kids, around your age, would sometimes guide the mules. Think about the boats and the mules as you walk in the exact same spots that the mules did long ago.

There is much more to know about the C&O Canal and that is why we have six visitor centers for people to visit. You will find many interesting things. There are artifacts in our visitor centers. **Artifacts** are very old things, like the shovels that the workers used to build the canal. Snubbing posts are also artifacts. People would wrap ropes around these wooden posts to hold the boats in place. There will always be something new to discover at the visitor center. You can learn about history (things that happened in the past) and plants and animals.

Check off the things you saw at the visitor center:

SHOVEL



MODEL RAILROAD

COAL

CANAL KIDS' TOYS

OLD CLOTHES

BOOKS



CANAL MONEY

CANAL BOAT MODEL

OLD PICTURES

MAP

SNUBBING POST

VIDEO



(You can ask a park ranger if you need help).

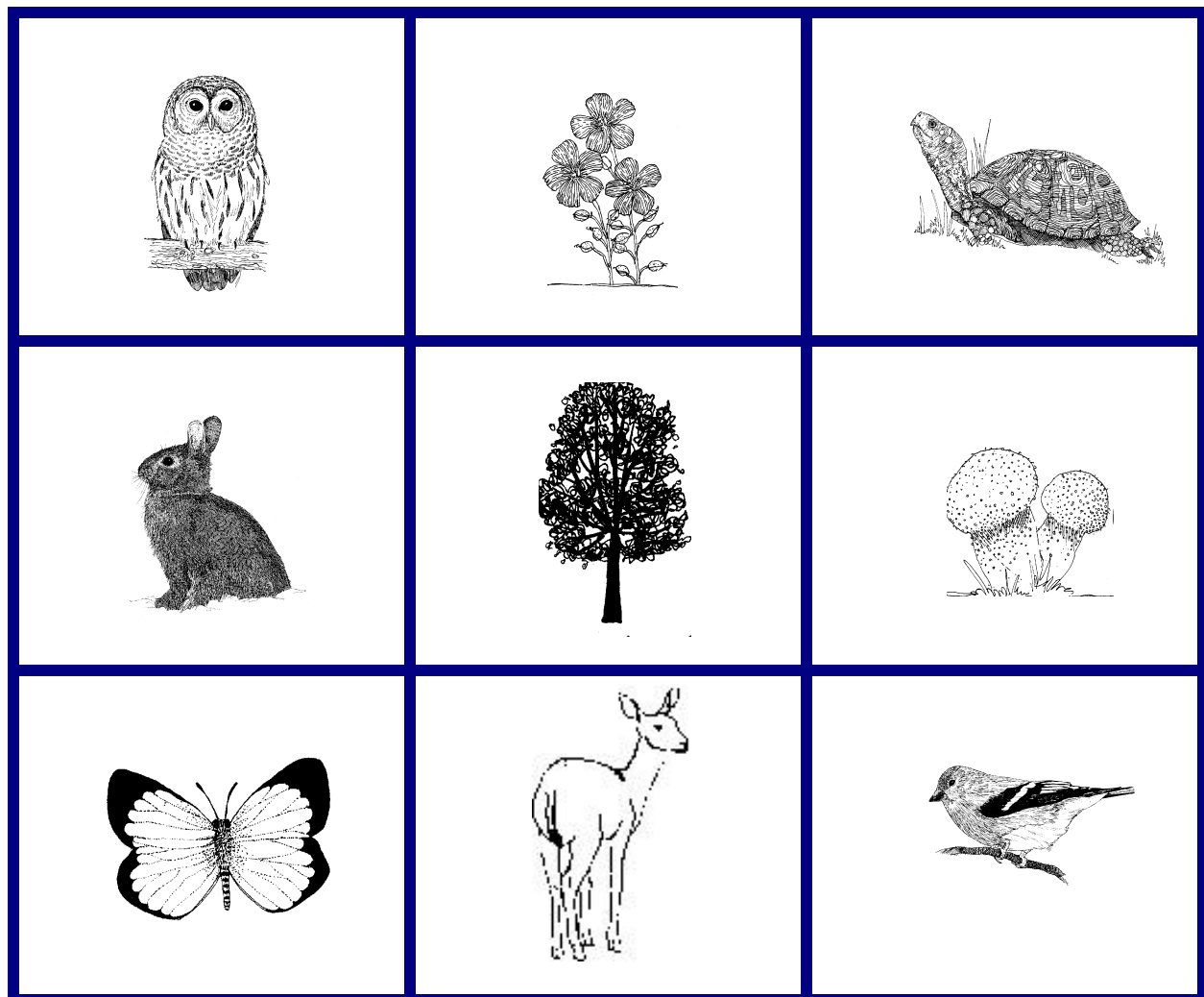


ACTIVITY #2

BE A TOWPATH DETECTIVE

There are a lot of different types of plants in the park. Many animals and insects also live in the park. Take a walk on the canal towpath and look for plants and animals. Count how many you see. Some animals are very good at hiding, so you will have to pay close attention. Be sure not to get too close or feed the animals. If you feed wild animals, they might not be able to find their own food anymore, and then they will be hungry.

Circle all of the things that you see while exploring the towpath! Try to get three in a row.





ACTIVITY #3

UNLOCK HISTORY

Unlock another mystery by learning about locks on the canal. Locks were used like elevators for the canal boats. A person who opened and closed the gates was called a lockkeeper. At each lock, there were two sets of heavy wooden gates. The gates would hold water like a bathtub. As the water entered, the water would raise the boats. The boats would be lowered when water was released to match the level on the other side. At our Great Falls Tavern and Georgetown visitor centers, you see a canal boat go through a lock!

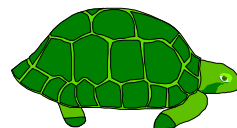
Your job is to visit a lock. You can ask someone at the visitor center where the closest one is.

Pretend you are the builder of a lock. Draw pictures and write down what you see.

What do you think the lock is made of?



You might see a turtle.





ACTIVITY #4



ATTEND ANY PARK RANGER PROGRAM

Park rangers know a lot about their park, and they enjoy sharing what they know. Go to a ranger-led program. You can learn about what life was like for children on the canal. At some programs, you will be walking or riding your bike while you learn. Sometimes you will get to see interesting artifacts, like an old musical instrument that someone used to play on the canal boat. Ask your parents to go to the visitor center to find out what programs are available. You could take a free tour of the Paw Paw Tunnel. You may also take a ride on one of the canal boats at the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center or at the Georgetown Visitor Center. There is a fee for riding on the boat.

Answer these questions:



1. **What was the title of the program?**

2. **What was the park ranger's name?**

3. **What kind of activity did you do? Write or draw three things you learned from this program.**

Drawing space:





ACTIVITY #5



GO CAMPING OR PICNICKING ALONG THE CANAL

Grab the picnic basket or your tent for a new adventure! Be sure to pay close attention to all of the sights and sounds.

Answer these questions:

1. Did you go camping or have a picnic? _____
2. Draw or write the names of three animals you saw.

3. Did you hear or tell any good stories around the picnic table or campfire? If so, write them down or draw a picture about the story at the bottom of this page.



Drawing space:





ACTIVITY #6

USE YOUR IMAGINATION

Now that you know about the C&O Canal National Historical Park, it is time to really put your brains to work!

Write a short story, song, or poem about the canal. Use your imagination. It could be about your visit or about what life might have been like for people that worked on the canal boats--anything about the canal!

A spiral-bound notebook with a blue metal spiral binding on the left. The notebook is open to a blank page with horizontal ruling lines. A green tab is visible on the right side of the page.



ACTIVITY #7



DRAW YOUR OWN TOWPATH

The towpath is where the mules walked while pulling the canal boats. Here's your chance to make your own towpath! What did you see as you walked along the towpath? Did you see animals, plants, and people? What other things might you see along the towpath? Use your imagination!

Start



Finish

Just for Fun!

Below is a picture for you to color just for fun! What other things might you add to this picture that can be found along the canal? Share your coloring picture with others, and tell them about the exciting things you have learned about the C&O Canal.

